

In re Appln. of RAGHURAMAN et al.
Application No. 09/490,981

REMARKS

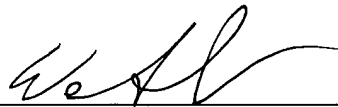
In the present application, claims 1-24 are currently pending. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as new matter. All of the pending claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,269,410 to Spasojevic ("Spasojevic").

Claim 9 is amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Claim 23 is rejected as being new matter under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In response, Applicants cancel claim 23, without prejudice, to expedite prosecution of the present invention. As a result of the canceled claim 23, the § 112, first paragraph, rejection is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants request that the § 112, first paragraph, rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) based on Spasojevic. In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants submit a Declaration of Melur K. Raghuraman and Venkataraman Ramanathan under 37 CFR 1.131 ("declaration"). As set forth in the declaration, the invention claimed in the present application was invented in this country prior to the § 102 (e) date of Spasojevic, rendering the claims patentable over Spasojevic. In light of the declaration submitted, Spasojevic is no longer a valid § 102(e) prior art reference. Accordingly, Applicants request that the §§ 102(e) and 103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



A. Wesley Ferrebee, Reg. No. 51,312
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER
700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005-3960
(202) 737-6770 (telephone)
(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

Date:

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